Natural Rearing Newsletter ©

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FOR THOSE THAT CHOOSE TO THINK FOR THEMSELVES

From The Desk Of: MARINA ZACHARIAS

By the time you read this I am happy to report that our own web site is now on the Internet. It's going to be "under construction" for quite a while and we will be adding a lot of material as time goes by. For now, nothing fancy (which translates into quick downloads) and much of the basic information will already be familiar to you. Do visit us at: **http://www.naturalrearing.com**

DIALOGUE ON RASPBERRY LEAVES

I recently visited (via e-mail) with a very nice vet in Colorado to discuss raspberry leaves. Because of some very real concerns, I am passing along our dialogue.

To Marina:

Hello, I am (name), a Veterinarian in Colorado. I have received some of your information from a client of mine and I had a few questions if you don't mind.

First, I will explain that I have done some extensive work with a woman that was an OB nurse that now has her own business of providing a service by which an owner can monitor the uterine contractions of their pregnant bitch and determine when the bitch is in labor and how things are progressing during the labor process. Through this information we can safely augment the labor with necessary medications when needed, such as oxytocin or calcium. Through this service we have found the use of wild raspberry leaves can sometimes lead a bitch into premature labor. By the confession of the bitch owners that they have been giving their bitch wild raspberry leaves after finding the bitch to have unusually high numbers of contractions very early before the due dates.

I wanted to ask you about the wild raspberry leaves and see if you had a reason why some bitches will go into premature labor and some do not when given this medication by their owners. Am I right to believe that wild raspberry leaves are an ergot derivative and that it causes the contraction of smooth muscle? When, exactly, do you suggest that the bitch owners start giving the NR Birth Aid that contains a (1) proportionate blend of wild raspberry leaves and other herbs? Is there a mixture of herbs that you recommend to give to bitches prior to breeding/during breeding that also contains wild raspberry leaves? I am curious, as I feel that the contractions of the smooth muscle of the uterus at the time of conception does not allow for the "quiet environment" that is needed for placentation to occur.

Marina, I do not wish to be antagonistic, I just am curious to hear what your feelings are about the wild raspberry leaves. I look forward to further conversation with you over this topic. Thank you for your time.

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Reply to (Vet. name):

I do appreciate your genuine curiosity and am always ready to cooperate wherever possible.

As with most herbs, raspberry leaves have their uses and abuses. Where there has been a problem associated with the use of raspberry leaves, I have found that it is generally dosage or quality related. (The old "if a little is good, more is better" fallacy). Usually, the pure herb (dried or fresh) was used and in some cases I have heard of whole handfuls being given to toy breed bitches throughout the pregnancy.

Traditionally, it is used in small quantities (usually as a "weak" tea) as a female tonic. It is reported to "...strengthen and prevent miscarriage and render parturition less laborious" (Source: Natural Healing with Herbs, Humbart Santillo, N.D.). Juliette Levy in her Illustrated Herbal Handbook states " It would be rare for a gypsy woman to go through pregnancy without having taken raspberry leaf tea from the first weeks of knowledge of conception."

IN THIS ISSUE

Dialogue on Raspberry Leaves
Natural Rearing--Putting It All Together
The Big Scam--Rabies Vaccination
Mailbox
How To Photograph A New Puppy
The Doctor Within

On the flip side of the coin, it was used as a "strong" tea for difficult labor, or afterwards to bring down retained afterbirth. Again to quote Juliette, "...strong drinks of raspberry-leaves tea, with a teaspoon of crushed ivy leaves to every two teaspoons of raspberry leaves, is given every two or three hours. This treatment has been successful when the more popular ergot (a derivative of rye) has failed."

Juliette's formula for dogs (i.e. "Birth Aid") was developed over 50 years ago and contains a very small percentage of raspberry leaves along with other traditional pregnancy herbs. We have found that it helps to produce a "wet" birth and is therefore contra-indicated where a planned C-section is anticipated or in breeds that are known for water retention problems (ex. Bulldog). Over the years I have personally been in touch with thousands of breeders that have used this particular formula (as directed) without problems and with good results.

In general I recommend it from the time of breeding, through delivery and a few days after. We have found it to also be effective if only used in the last part of the pregnancy. Practical experience has indicated that it helps to produce more even sized litters and significantly improves "free-whelping" in relatively short periods of time.

I do not recommend straight raspberry leaves. The quality available is always a question (some might as well be sawdust) and contamination is a very real concern. Dosage is of course a prime factor. A small pinch of properly treated organic leaves can be equivalent in strength to a cupful of ill-processed leaves. Thus, how much is too much? Proper dosage will help to tone the muscles of the pelvic region and the uterus. Too much can trigger contractions. Due to the long, successful history of Juliette's Birth Aid formula, it is the only product I can confidently recommend.

By the way, I have been getting some feedback on the monitoring work being done in Colorado--most of it positive. The only concern I have heard is the question of "is it causing too many early C-section decisions?". Perhaps you could let me know your thoughts on this.

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To Marina:

Thanks for answering my e-mail. I have been hearing the same sort of information as to the quality of the leaves and how much is given to get the results desired.

One of my clients has been using something of your line and we ultrasounded her bitch on Friday. She is carrying 3 pups. She is thrilled as the bitch is 6 years old. She also has been giving something to her male to increase sperm concentration. I don't think it has helped yet. I am not sure how long she has been giving him the product.

As far as the uterine monitoring service....I would have to disagree that it has increased the c-sections. Rather, it has let breeders decide if they want to do a c-section to save just one failing pup, or several. And the results of the c-section are much improved over when the service is not being used and the breeders wait too long to intervene. We have a friend that did not use the service with her bitch and she thought she felt another pup in the uterus. She called her vet and they would not dispense any oxytocin without an x-ray. The silly lady would not "spend the extra money for an x-ray" so 36 hours after delivery of the last live pup, she delivered a dead pup. If she had used the service, or perhaps your Birth Aid, she could have perhaps saved that last pup. But she is a novice and doesn't seem to understand the costs of breeding a litter and thinks she is going to make money breeding this bitch!! Don't we know differently!!??

Thanks again for answering me. I have referred a handful of clients to you for herbal supplements. It is nice to be able to visit with you.

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NATURAL REARING--PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

The basic principals of natural rearing are both simple and elegant. Yet to the newcomer, the wealth of detailed information can be overwhelming. Probably the hardest part is first "unlearning" what we have taken for granted for most of our lives. Simply stated it means going back in time and treating our animals the way our grandmother on the farm used to treat them.

What makes this difficult is the billions of dollars that have been spent over the last fifty years to convince you, your breeder, your vet, your government (all levels), and most of your pet owning friends, that you <u>must</u> vaccinate your animal every year, feed only scientifically 100% balanced nutritional pet food, etc. In other words if you do not follow the orthodox "wisdom" of caring for your animal, you are considered to be irresponsible. If you don't follow the dogma, conventional wisdom will tell you that you will probably kill your pet or at the very least be asking for some crippling disease or malformation.

Common Sense Question: How did the species survive for thousands of years without all these wonderful "advances" in animal rearing?

Answer: The species is tougher than what you have been taught to believe!

The tools of modern science have provided solid evidence that many of the "old ways" are far superior in providing the elements needed for a strong immune system and a vital, healthy animal that can bring joy to the human/animal bonding relationship. More and more owners are coming to realize that the misery experienced with their animal relationship can be laid directly on the doorstep of following modern, conventional rearing methods. The growth of interest in "natural" foods and "alternative" medicine is a

sure sign that people are slowly rejecting the way we have been taught to do things in the latter half of this century.

Bearing this in mind, we can begin to learn about natural rearing by first questioning so called "conventional" wisdom. This is a giant step and for many people, a hard thing to do. There is so much in modern knowledge that is truly wonderful, that the process of separating what is "hype" foisted on us by the big boys and what is sound, useful and practical information, can be, and often is, confusing.

To put the learning process in perspective we need to address three broad categories:

1. Diet (including food, water, and supplements).
2. Vaccinations (conventional, holistic and a fundamental understanding of the immune system).
3. Veterinary medicine (conventional, holistic and when to use the best of both worlds).

During your fact finding mission, you may not like what you find out for it is much more comfortable to follow the illusions created by the hype then it is to face up to the harsh realities of truth. Nowhere is this more self evident than in the knowledge about "pet food" and vaccination--the twin nemesis of natural rearing. We have expounded on these in past issues but for the newcomer that wants to zero in on some facts please refer to:

- Volume 1-Issue 2 "Food for Thought", an article on how commercial pet foods are made, drawn from personal experience.
- Volume 2-Issue 6 "It's In the Bag", an article about the raw materials used in pet foods.

These two articles alone should provide enough basic information to give you good reason to consider some other way of providing your animal with food from a source other than the highly touted commercial stuff. Please note that I didn't call it garbage. Garbage could actually provide better nutrition than the "stuff" they put in most bags and cans.

I will be forever thankful to Juliette de Bairacli Levy for her book "The Complete Herbal Handbook for the Dog and Cat". It was first published over 50 years ago and I truly consider her to be the "grandmother" of natural rearing. When I first decided to learn about the subject, there was no one I could turn to for advice on diet, etc. With the help of the information in this book, I set up my original raw food diet. I studied, read and re-read the book so many times that my original copy was falling apart. Finally I was confident that I was following a tried and true method of providing the best nutrition possible. Over the last twelve years I have modified it slightly by adding more raw bones and have added certain other supplements for my senior animals. Nevertheless, with all the additional knowledge I have gained over the years, I still use the same basic diet and supplement with Juliette's herbal formulas. Nothing in modern science has indicated to me any sound reason to change what I am feeding my hounds. The principals of this basic diet have been used for centuries by thousands of breeders all over the world.

I would strongly recommend this book for the newcomer. For a quick summary of what I feed, I would suggest you review Volume 1--Issue 3 "A Fresh Food Diet".

The two most frequently asked questions I get with respect to a raw diet are:

Q: Aren't you afraid of Salmonella or bacterial contamination of the raw meat?
A: Absolutely not! Firstly, a healthy dog is well equipped by nature to handle the "bugs" that we have been taught to fear. How else could the species have survived (both in the wild and domesticated) for thousands of years, feeding on raw foods? If you are unable to get over this fear, the solution is extremely simple. Pre soak the meat in grapefruit seed extract or food grade hydrogen peroxide to kill off any germs. I have never bothered, but the extra step may be worth it if it gives you more peace of mind. (Elderly or weaker animals could benefit from this).

Q: When you feed raw bones, like chicken wings, aren't you afraid your dogs will get splinters, or choke or get hurt from them?
A: Again, absolutely not! If you cook them that's a different story. Cooked bones are brittle and can splinter and cause problems. Raw bones, such as those in chicken wings are actually flexible to some degree and break clean. Dogs and cats are carnivores and have been designed by Mother Nature to consume and digest raw bones as part of their normal diet.

For the newcomer I would suggest you review Volume 1 Issue 10 "Common Sense & Nonsense Feeding" and "Redefining the Modern Dog".

There are many books on the market that provide a number of different recipes for preparing your own pet food. I am comfortable with the diet I use but it is not "the only way" to feed a dog. Just as different grandmothers fed variations of diets to their animals, there is no one right way. The underlying principals though remain the same. There simply is no commercially produced food that can substitute for a basic raw diet! It's what nature intended and you know it just doesn't pay to fool with Mother Nature.

The subject of diet is one that the newcomer can adapt to without too much trouble because it makes so much sense. However, when we turn to the subject of vaccination the underlying fear of disease is so great that there is an enormous emotional reaction to even begin to question the process. There is a deep, ingrained belief that we must follow conventional vaccination practices to protect our animals. If we can bear to be brave enough to at least scratch the surface of truth, there is a tendency to run and hide from the new knowledge that we come across. Unfortunately, the newcomer is suddenly asked to face the fact that with **ANY FORM OF VACCINATION (CONVENTIONAL OR UNCONVENTIONAL) THERE ARE NO 100% GUARANTEES THAT AN ANIMNAL WILL NOT CONTRACT THE DISEASE THAT THE VACCINATION WAS INTENDED TO PROTECT AGAINST!!**

This is pretty scary stuff. It takes real work to overcome the fear and actually apply an open mind to the subject. As we pick up more knowledge we find ourselves moving way outside our comfort zone and may wish that we were back in our "blissfully ignorant" stage.

For those with the tenacity to follow through in their quest for truth, the rewards are enormous and proportional to the effort of learning. For the beginner I would suggest reading Volume 1--Issues 4,5,6 and 8 to get a simplified understanding on conventional immunization factors. Issue 8 in particular will provide you with news on the subject from a Holistic Vet Conference. To obtain a brief understanding of an holistic approach please refer to Volume 1 Issue 6 "Homeopathy--Some Basics" and Issue 8 "Nosodes".

To really get a handle on the subject of immunization we should have some basic understanding of the immune system. For this I would suggest reading Volume 2--Issues 8,9 and 10. I have tried in these issues to make a very complex subject as simple as I can without losing some of the necessary technical information.

To round out the quest for understanding I would strongly recommend reading Volume 1--Issue 7,8 and 9 on "The Master Key to Health--Enzymes".

One word of encouragement I can give you regarding vaccination protocols is that finally the conventional community, including the American Veterinary Medical Association, is seriously reviewing the subject and coming to the conclusion that present practices are probably flawed. Holistic vets have been saying this for years but it is only now that the "orthodox" vets are getting around to questioning the lack of science behind the methods used for vaccinating our animals.

Speaking of veterinarians, let's move on to the subject of veterinary medicine. There is little doubt that the "Western" world has produced some of the finest "emergency" medicine in the world. Modern science has provided some outstanding tools for diagnostic purposes. Conventional medicine views the body as a mechanical device and seeks to put a label on a problem through symptomatic description. Treatment is generally by surgery or drugs. The D.V.M. of today is superbly schooled in the use of these modalities. What seems to have been pushed aside is the old primary rule of medicine "Firstly, do no harm". Over vaccination and over use of antibiotics and steroids are common.

The holistic veterinarian has learned to question some of what he has been taught and has gone on from earning his D.V.M. to trying to become a "healer" in the true sense of the word. In general, drugs for suppression of symptoms are rarely used. Instead the holistic practitioner seeks to determine the underlying cause of the symptom and may use one or several modalities to support and revitalize the body's own method of healing. Recognition of the "Vital Force" in a living body is freely given and considered to be as important as the "mechanistic" model learned in school. An attempt is made to view the animal as a "whole" individual being and more than just the sum of its parts.

One of the challenges for the newcomer is the sheer quantity of unfamiliar terms and labels used to describe the various modalities. No one term (such as holistic medicine, alternative medicine, complementary medicine, naturopathic medicine, or even integrative medicine) can describe the entire field for all the modalities involved.

Our Western trained minds are so used to focusing on the "one problem--one solution" aspect of health care, that it takes a major effort to adapt to a new way of thinking. Every animal is a unique individual with its own strengths and weaknesses and needs to be viewed from that perspective. Mass production medicine has been rammed down our throats for so long that we expect to find a "magic bullet" readily available for our animals problems. Sorry folks, it just doesn't work that way! Suppressing the symptom does not mean that a cure has been affected.

The challenge for the D.V.M. that chooses to practice a "Holistic" form of medicine, is the sheer volume of modalities utilized throughout the world. No one person could possibly become an "expert" in every field. The American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association lists the following modalities in their directory: Acupuncture, Bach Flower Remedies, Chinese Herbs, Chiropractic, Clinical Nutrition, Color Therapy, Conventional Medicine, Electroacupuncture according to Voll, Glandular Therapy, Homeopathy (Classical and other), Interro, Biotron ll, Nutrition, Magnetic Therapy, Pulsating Magnetic Therapy, and Western Herbs.

This list, although extensive is by no means complete. Entire fields of study such as Ayurvedic Veterinary Medicine, Environmental Medicine, and many others, are also open for investigation and incorporation into a veterinarian practice.

For the student of natural rearing there is no need to be overwhelmed by the plethora of information available. Rather, take comfort in knowing that there are many ways to deal with health problems and there is always hope when conventional medicine has given up.

Most enthusiasts will find themselves turning to holistic care first, as their primary source of veterinary medicine. Conventional treatment is usually reserved for the emergency situation that can pop up from time to time. Both have their place.

One of the goals of natural rearing is to minimize the need for any veterinarian assistance. Prevention of ill-ness and fostering of well-ness can be achieved if a total program is followed. Providing your animal with the best chance of "being all that it can be" is a lofty goal, worthy of the extra effort it takes to accept the responsibility and think for yourself.

There is no substitute for fresh, wholesome food, clean water, exercise, plenty of fresh air and avoidance of chemicals and drugs to the greatest extent possible. Just the way it used to be on grandmother's farm.

It is said that the journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. I have learned to enjoy the natural rearing journey and I hope you will too. I know your animals certainly will! (4)

The following article is reprinted with the permission of the author. I am very grateful to Dr. Fudens for allowing us to pass along this information. He is obviously a "healer" as mentioned in our previous article on natural rearing.

Dr. Fudens has traveled extensively to pursue his studies and research in holistics. He has had affiliations with: International Veterinary Acupuncture Society, National Center for Homeopathy, American Holistic Veterinary Association, Association of Avian Veterinarians, American Institute of Homeopathy, Association of Aquatic Veterinarians, World Research Foundation, United States Psychotronics Association, International Foundation of Homeopathy, International Federation of Radionics-London, Institute for Complementary Medicine-London, Faculty-Royal London Homeopathic Hospital.

THE BIG SCAM--RABIES VACCINATION

By: Dr. John Fudens, D.V.M.

I would like to give you, the reader, the truth about the so called required vaccinations, particularly rabies. There are two basic forms of law. One is the legal Constitutional and Common law that this country was founded on, and the other is "colorable" law passed by Administrative agencies/bureaucrats who have been given so called authority to pass laws. Black's Law Dictionary 5th Edition defines colorable law as "That which is in appearance only, and not in reality, what purports to be, hence counterfeit, feigned, having the appearance of truth." Yes, I study the law, am a paralegal, and have an extensive law library.

So any and all mandatory rabies vaccination programs are colorable law, in that they have been passed and mandated upon the pet owning public by certain vested interest groups. Who are these groups? First and foremost are veterinarians, in general, and veterinarian medical organizations. Second are the local animal control personnel, bureaucrats and politicians. What are their reasons? GREED, POWER AND CONTROL. Both these large powerful interest groups stand to benefit greatly by having rabies mandated by colorable law.

Veterinarians receive a large percentage of both their gross income and profit from vaccines given in the office. On average vaccines cost 60 to 95 cents per dose and are charged to the client at $15 to $25 per injection and substantially more in the large cities. Therefore, if veterinarians lobby to have a colorable law passed to give rabies vaccine every year that enhances their financial picture.

The veterinary medical societies, by working with other groups and area politicians, are rewarded by increased prestige and professional standing in the community. After all we are protecting you from the dreaded disease rabies, whether it exists or not. Some areas of the country are more enlightened and fortunate to have the rabies vaccine mandated every three years. You can be assured the rise of rabies is never taken into account as to whether the vaccine should be required or not. More on this later. The local government personnel benefit by extending more control over our lives, enriching the public treasury with fees, tags and fines, and giving the appearance that local government is doing something about animal populations, disease and risks to the public. Since rabies vaccines have been mandated, what county or area has seen less dog and cat bites, better animal control, more public awareness and educating of pet owning responsibility, better birth control of unwanted animals, less euthanasia of animals and decreased growth of animal control facilities?

These special groups and lobbies will use any argument, realistic or not, to justify their position. They are excellent at using the media to spread the lies and distortions. Examples: We have increased numbers of dogs biting people, pitbulls attacking and killing children are on the increase, more dogs and cats are running loose terrorizing neighborhoods, killing wildlife and other domestic stock, etc...ad nausaem. The only thing rabies vaccination is for is the protection from rabies virus, all other justifiers for the vaccine fall under human control and exist because there are a certain number of humans, connected to animals, who are irresponsible. Rabies is spread by the bite of an infected animal. The number of dog/cat bite cases in the U.S. that expose humans to rabies is as rare as shark attacks. This low incident rate has nothing to do with mandatory vaccination as the number of cases was low before the mandatory requirement.

Let me give you an example of Pinellas County, FL where my Affinity Clinic is located. I secured information from Pinellas Animal Control through the Freedom of Information Act. The record of animal control starts in 1964. From 1964 to 1978 there were zero cases of dog rabies in the county. Magically in 1978 rabies vaccine was mandated to be given every year and all dogs tagged and licensed. WHY? Well it seems four veterinarians, with animal control bureaucrats, pushed the county board of supervisors to pass a law mandating rabies vaccination every year. There were three local vets and one professor from the State Veterinary College who were behind this. It was interesting reading their letters pushing this law and the minutes of the county meeting. There was talk of dogs biting people (no actual figures given), dogs running loose, animal overpopulation, rabies on the increase in the U.S. (the increase was in wildlife, not dogs), etc.,etc. Not once was the issue discussed that there was no rabies in the county in dogs. To this date there still has not been one case of dog rabies, including the population of dogs whose owners, GOD BLESS THEM, do not vaccinate for rabies. Let's go further.

From 1964 to 1989 there were no cases of rabies in cats in Pinellas County. Magically in 1989 a law was passed mandating rabies vaccination, tags and licenses for all cats. Same tired worn out excuses were used. Since the 1989 law there was one cat with rabies contracted from the bite of a bat. DO YOU READERS REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT I HAVE JUST STATED? This is standard throughout the Country. No allowance is made for dogs/cats who never leave the house or yard, could never be exposed to rabies under any circumstances, or who are so ill, old or at the end of their life cycle that the rabies vaccine would throw them over the edge. No, all dogs and cats are treated the same because we have the bogeyman, rabies, stalking the streets waiting to strike unprotected dogs and cats.

Is there rabies in this Country? You bet. Are there areas of this Country that have rabies in their wildlife population and

do some dogs/cats become infected? You bet. But let's be realistic. Rabies has been on this earth long before man walked here and will be here long after we are gone. The only way to get rid of rabies is to remove mankind and the upper animals susceptible to the virus. Then maybe the virus will die off. It is a self limiting disease in the wild as it is fatal. So the virus has an extremely hard time spreading far and wide.

What is wrong with targeting those areas of the Country that have a problem with rabies using a realistic and specially formulated program that will protect the population at risk? Too logical and the special groups don't make any money. Why not educate the pet owner to the risks and dangers and let them decide whether the immune system damage from rabies vaccination is greater or lesser than contracting the disease. We do have a God given Constitutionally secured right to LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS. Public health officials always have the right to mandate emergency health care procedures in case the public, in general does not respond properly. But why should every day, month and year be as if an emergency or crisis exists? And why should we have more and more control of our lives taken from us?

The vaccines, particularly rabies, are a political and economic scam being forced upon pet owners because they do not know the truth. Rabies, nationwide, is nowhere near the problem the veterinarians, media, politicians and bureaucrats would like you to believe. If you wish more of the truth go to your local city or county government building and look up the codes and statutes concerning vaccines and rabies. Get figures from local animal control for rabies in dogs, cats and wildlife in your area. Then you can start to fight back, take control of your life, and protect your pet from the only dreaded disease that is important--special interest groups pushing their program leading to vaccine induced damaged immune systems. Only you can set yourself free.

Current Veterinary Therapy by Kirk, the textbook bible for veterinarians in general, has an article on canine and feline vaccines by two researchers. Near the end of the article is a paragraph called Annual Vaccinations. It states "The practice of annual vaccinations lacks scientific validity or verification. There is no immunological requirement for annual vaccinations. The practice of annual vaccinations should be considered of questionable efficacy unless it is used as a mechanism to provide an annual physical examination or is required by law." Sure, if we can't manipulate you with annual vaccinations let's pass a law to get you into the office. Nice trick!

Well reader, it is your choice. I can only hope to stimulate you to look and go further. You don't have to take this suppression. Fight back. The only thing you have to lose is your freedom and you have already lost a great deal of it. I can fight with you but I can't do it alone.

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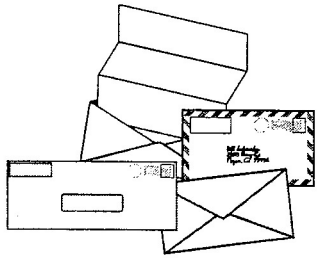
Wow! Does he tell it like it is or what!

MAILBOX



Dateline April 7, 1998---New York

Dear Marina,

We were doing some "parental assessment", and have decided that (name of dog) is out-growing a lot of the problems associated with her "skin condition"---WHATEVER the *&^$# it was! (You will remember that I never agreed to allergy testing, but insisted that it was yeast.)

Anyway, her skin under the coat is still "stained" pink-ish under her chin, but there is no longer any smell, crusties, or itch/discomfort. Her belly is clear, but has never really "furred-up" the way my other hounds have. (She was not even shaved for her spay last January.)

I continue to use and recommend Pro-Aseptic. I swear it gave her a chance to get over the repeated waves of infection/affliction/whatever! (I swabbed it on her chin and flews straight, with a cotton ball for nearly a month. Now just two or three times a week.) I still use it--diluted--in her accessible outer ear canal every other day, but the skin itself on the inside of the ear "flaps" is clear and healthy now. (For a while the gooey-greasy crusties built up from her ear canal all the way out--no matter how much peroxide, vinegar wash, Otowash, green-soap, or oil soap I tried!!)

Now...about her adolescent behavior... 9 months = human 13 year old, perhaps??? Thank God she cannot call you herself and complain about my rules! She is, of course, testing every limit!

Pro-Aseptic IS wonderful stuff!

Yes it is wonderful stuff. We have had great success with it as a topical antiseptic. It seems to do well no matter if the problem arose from viral, bacterial or fungal causes. Basset hounds, with their wrinkles, dew flaps, etc. can really get into a messy, stinky condition and suffer terribly. Pro-Aseptic is a great natural product that seems to take care of most of these conditions. We have even used it (along with colloidal silver) for lip folds, with good results.

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Dateline March 24, 1998--Connecticut

Dear Marina,

Took (name of dog) to the vet again for bloat the other night but used Nux Moschata while transporting her. By the time we got there, she was much improved and the vet hardly had to do anything!! Anyway, he was impressed and would like more info on Nux Moschata. Also, may as well send a catalog so he can see what else is available. Maybe we can convert him. I will bring the info to him when I get it from you....Thanks

Nux Moschata 30c (Nutmeg) is one of the homeopathic remedies that I strongly recommend that you have on hand at all times for emergency purposes. (i.e. on your way to the vet!)

This is an outstanding remedy that helps alleviate the gas and swelling of the abdomen. It can be used alone or with "Intestine" and "Stomach". It's also a good idea to have Calming Essence (Rescue Remedy) to alleviate shock and fear.

If these remedies are given early enough and frequently (i.e. every 10 minutes) many cases can actually be stopped. I would administer these remedies no matter what stage the animal is in. I have heard back from many breeders who have actually used the remedies and either stopped the bloat in progress, or saved the dog's life by buying time while waiting for surgery (the body was able to eliminate sufficient gas to avoid serious harm).

Dateline March 3, 1998---New York

Dear Marina,

Tested (dog's name), the puppy with the dry eye problem tonight. No medication except the nutritional supplements for over a week. This is almost like "Riply's Believe It or Not"

She tested 14, almost 15.

Now continuing on the balance of the treatments for safety.

I am so happy I could cry. Yes, I think I will.

The three main products used to treat dry eye (lack of tear production) are "Iplex" and "Ocudyne" (given internally) and "Omega EPA" (administered directly into the eye).

This combination provides a full range of vitamins, and other nutrients, specifically designed to assist the eye regain normal function. In this case it brought tear production up from just about nothing to almost normal.

A small side note, my Dad has been taking Ocudyne for a little over a year and recently went in for new glasses. When they tested his eyes, they could not believe that his sight had improved to the point that he needed a weaker prescription! Both eyes tested markedly better!!

Dateline March 29, 1998---California

Hi Marina,

Thought you might enjoy the enclosed semen analysis on (name of dog).---the first since I started him on Symplex M, L-Arginine, and other nutritional remedies in early February!

Last summer, when motility was down to 5%, I put him on raw glandulars, L-Arginine, etc. Within 5 weeks his semen was normal and bitches were conceiving.

Then I followed veterinary "advice" and discontinued the glandulars and L-Arginine. The next bitches bred to him failed to whelp in January. I did not waste money having a semen analysis done before restarting the remedies--so I don't know if he was at fault. At best my report is "anecdotal" but the lab report proves Motility is 90% with 79% Normal Sperm after again using the products.

I bought a nice used binocular microscope to check his semen in the future.

Hmmm...now let me see if I've got this right.. Dog has sperm problems--natural products bring dog back to normal--vet says stop --dog not successful in breeding--natural products used again--dog back to normal!

Yup! Just another anecdote. Guess the vet won't believe this one either. Must 'a bin another of those awkward "coincidences" that make people waste money on natural products.

Although treatment should be individualized, I'm not aware of any drug therapy that will produce the same consistent results as the combination of Symplex M, L'Arginine, L'Carnatine and a high potency vitamin such as Spectra.

HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH A NEW PUPPY

(Author Unknown)

1. Remove film from box and load camera
2. Remove film box from puppy's mouth an throw in trash
3. Remove puppy from trash and brush coffee grounds from muzzle
4. Choose a suitable background for photo
5. Mount camera on tripod and focus
6. Find puppy and take dirty sock from mouth
7. Place puppy in pre-focused spot and return to camera
8. Forget about spot and crawl after puppy on knees
9. Focus with one hand and fend off puppy with other hand
10. Get tissue and clean nose print from lens
11. Take flash cube from puppy's mouth and throw in trash
12. Put cat outside and put peroxide on the scratch on puppy's nose
13. Put magazines back on coffee table
14. Try to get puppy's attention by squeaking toy over your head
15. Replace your glasses and check camera for damage
16. Jump up in time to grab puppy by scruff of neck and say--"No, outside! No, outside!!"
17. Call spouse to clean up mess
18. Fix a drink
19. Sit back in Lazy Boy with drink and resolve to teach puppy "sit" and "stay" the first thing in the morning

THE DOCTOR WITHIN

Have you ever considered the magnificent automatic functions of the body that are constantly in action to keep us "healthy" and in balance (homeostasis)? Dr. Albert Schweitzer is quoted as saying, "We doctors don't do anything except help the doctor within".

By Mother Nature's design, the body is supposed to heal itself. When we get an infection the body is supposed to cure it. When we develop an injury the body is supposed to heal it. By design if we comply with Nature's two main requirements, proper intake and proper waste elimination, the "doctor within" is perfectly capable of handling the rest.

So what goes wrong? Why is there so much disease and suffering? Is Nature's design faulty?

Despite the enormous amount of new knowledge discovered in the Twentieth Century, it is not humanly possible to know every molecular and physiological occurrence in a particular individual's body, and then knowing this, begin to initiate and orchestrate the exact changes needed to restore homeostasis. We are simply not that smart!

Yet, conventional Western medicine continues to base all of its therapies on a "mechanical/chemical" model that leaves no room for the doctor within. It centers around making treatment decisions according to disease symptoms and does little to uncover underlying causes. Consequently it is usually successful in treating acute/functional symptoms but is generally a dismal failure in helping any chronic or age related diseases such as auto-immune disorders, cancer, arthritis, diabetes, etc.

It should be pointed out that the nature of what we call an acute/functional symptom is that although it can range from being mild to being quite severe, it is never serious and its duration is always self-limited. In other words these symptoms go away without any intervention because when the actions of the doctor within are completed, the symptom will disappear.

Acute/functional symptoms simply demonstrate that the body is effectively regulating itself and should be treated with remedies aimed at assisting the process that caused them. They should never be suppressed. Suppression simply means the body has not completed its normal process and must try again at a later time. Continual suppression can and often does lead to a chronic/organic problem as the doctor within attempts to find some other way to dispose of the unwanted underlying cause.

The holistic practitioner recognizes that the Western model is incomplete or in fact misdirected. If so, then everything that follows from it will be flawed and will only continue to make the cure of chronic disease an unattainable task.

Ultimately the factors that will determine why a body is able or unable to heal itself are four:

1) constitution,
2) ongoing external stressors,
3) ongoing internal stressors, and
4) inadequately functioning regulation systems.

As a result of the interaction between our inherited constitutional weaknesses and our environmental stressors, we are continuously developing biological imbalances. The regulation systems have some very basic needs in order to operate properly to handle these imbalances. As long as we provide proper intake of all nutrients required for an individuals body, and as long as certain metabolic end products are eliminated, then by Nature's design "health" will be maintained.

If we digress from the basic design of the body's requirements, we burden the system with never-ending stress, continually keeping it in a state of regulation system activity. This state consumes the body's vital energy at an accelerated pace and increases the need for both nutritional intake and elimination of waste.

Eventually, these critical requirements can no longer be met, and it is at this point that the doctor within becomes sick and is no longer able to restore homeostasis. The result is the appearance of chronic/organic symptoms. These symptoms are continuous and unrelenting, they are frequently disabling, and they don't go away even after all external stressors have been removed.

This condition is progressive and self-reinforcing, and will ultimately result in tissue pathology. When the degree of tissue pathology has surpassed the body's regenerative potential, the disease will then become irreversible.

Obviously the need to address nutritional intake and waste removal becomes critical when dealing with chronic/organic degeneration. Unless we can provide the doctor within the right materials to rebuild the body and give adequate support for getting rid of waste we have no hope of curing the patient!

Fortunately, the holistic model of the body is replacing the mechanical/chemical model in both human and animal medicine. More and more Doctors and Veterinarians are coming to realize the importance of the doctor within and working with Natures design rather than trying to outsmart her.

Thought for the Day:

"The best vitamin for making friends, B-1"

'Till next time, take care out there!